

The action of two of the finest military companies of Alabama in withdrawing their entries from the National Drill, because some colored companies from Virginia and Washington will not participate in the contest, has excited unfavorable comment on all sides. There does not seem to be any general disposition, however, among the citizen soldiery of the South, to imitate the example of the Montgomery, "True Blues" and "Grays." The spirit which animated their course is one which deserves, and will receive the censure of the better class of citizens in all parts of the country.

The regular army is composed in part of colored regiments, and those who are going to take part in the competition for prizes would be called into action as quickly as any others if the country were invaded. The affronted Southern companies have a right to draw the color line as closely and as long as they stubbornly please to do, but the current opinion is that the Alabamians will simply lose the best opportunity they have ever had for a public display of their excellent discipline, while the imposing show will go on as grandly as if they had lent their presence to its success.

Indeed, the loss thus experienced has already been more than counterbalanced by additional entries from the North and West, stimulated probably by the recalcitrant course of the Southern militia.

The latter seem to have forgotten that a number of colored organizations took part in the inauguration of a Democratic President two years ago without offending anybody, and that they failed to criticize Gov. Lee of Virginia for assigning places to the colored troops at the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of Richmond's City Hall.

The coming Drill and Encampment has the recognition of the Government. In this sense it is a national affair and the managers could not, even if they wished, exclude the military companies from participation because of their color.

Ariel Traveling.

Successful experiments have been made at Metz with a navigable balloon propelled by an electric motor. The Augsburg Allgemeine Zeitung says it is the invention of a German engineer named Welker, who for some time has been employed in America, where he perfected his discovery. The German Government, the paper says, has bought the invention, paying for it 1,000,000 marks down. The speed of the balloon exceeds that of a railway train and it may be stopped and directed at will moving against the wind. Whatever truth there may be in the report, it is certain that the residents of Metz are now nightly startled by an electrical illumination hovering at a great height over their houses.

Dress is the goal and guide post today, and little girls scarcely out of baby have balls, birthday fetes, and dinner parties in their honor, keeping them awake in the night air in ridiculous finery, hours after refreshing sleep—so necessary to childhood and future womanhood—should have begun to make new blood and bones and brain matter. Dress, dress, dress. This is cultivated in the child from her infancy. Silk slips, Valenciennes lace overdresses, silk stockings on her poor little shabby legs, thin slippers and décolleté gowns—these occupy the modern little sinners' thoughts. It is not her fault that when she grows up she must refuse the man she loves, because of his inability to keep up this panorama.—St. Louis Republican.

A recent convulsion of nature cast up a lot of mangled sea serpents, queer fish and nondescripts, on the Coast of Southern California. This strange sight on the beach attracts large crowds in spite of the powerful smell of decayed fish. It must remind them of the appearance of the Mugwump County ticket in this city the day after the last election.

Germany and France may have a war at last. A French Commissary has been arrested by the Germans and Paris is pretty hot about it.

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